AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-11 and 17-19.

1. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A method of treating hyperphosphatemia, comprising:

administering to an individual a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a peptidic compound characterized by (a) oral bioavailability, (b) 4 to 30 amino acid residues, and (c) having at least one amino acid residue which is phosphorylated or which is phosphorylatable *in vivo* or *in vitro*.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the composition comprises 1 to 1,000 mg of the peptidic compound.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the individual is a mammal.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the peptidic compound is further characterized by reducing serum phosphate levels 5% or more in the mammal.

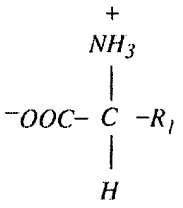
16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

repeatedly administering the composition once a day or more over a period of 30 days or more.

17. – 19. (Canceled)

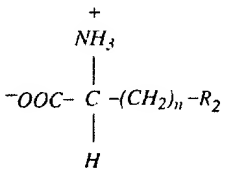
20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said peptidic compound comprises monomer units selected from:

(a) a unit (I) selected from the group consisting of a coded amino acid, a non-coded amino acid, and a synthetic amino acid, of the general structural formula (I'):



wherein R_1 is any moiety connectable to the carbon atom; and

(b) a unit (II) selected from the group consisting of a coded amino acid, a non-coded amino acid, and a synthetic amino acid, of the general structural formula:



wherein R_2 is any moiety which is phosphorylated or which is capable of being phosphorylated, wherein n=0 to 10.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein R_1 is -H.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein R_2 of each monomer unit is independently selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2OX$, $-CH(OX)-CH_3$, $-CH_2(phenyl)-OX$, wherein X is H,